

What is claimed:

1. A computer system for assessing hazards, comprising:
 - a database storing hazard data, safety requirement data and work area data, the safety requirement data being associated with the hazard data and the hazard data being associated with the work area data;
 - a first interface arranged to present potential work areas from the work area data to a user, and to receive input from the user identifying the work area associated with a particular task;
 - a second interface arranged to present potential hazards from the hazard data to the user, each potential hazard being associated with the work area identified by the user as associated with the particular task, and to receive input from the user identifying which potential hazards are associated with the particular task; and
 - a reporter arranged to present to the user each hazard identified by the user for the task, and to present with each identified hazard the safety data associated with said hazard from the database.
2. A computer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the safety requirement data includes personal protective equipment data, safe working requirements data, equipment and permit data, each of which are associated with the hazard data.
3. A computer system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the database also stores risk-rating data, the risk rating data being associated with the hazard data, and wherein the reporter is arranged to present the risk rating associated with the hazard with each identified hazard.
4. A computer system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising risk assessor arranged to present at least one question to an authorized person regarding a hazard in the hazard data, and to calculate from the authorized person's responses thereto a risk rating for that hazard, and to store the risk rating in the risk rating data associated with the hazard.
5. A computer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hazard data is arranged hierarchically to form hazard category data and hazard descriptor data, each hazard descriptor being associated with a hazard category, wherein said second interface

is arranged to present to a user each hazard category, and if the user indicates a hazard category as applicable for the particular task to also present each hazard descriptor associated with that hazard category to the user, along with the safety requirement data.

6. A computer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the database includes
5 work type data, the work area data being associated with the work type data.

7. A computer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first interface and said second interface are combined.

8. A user computer for use in a computer system for assessing hazards, the user computer comprising:
10 a communicator for receiving hazard data, safety requirement data and work area data from a database stored on a server computer, the safety requirement data being associated with the hazard data and the hazard data being associated with the work area data;

a first interface arranged to present potential work areas from the work area data
15 to a user, and to receive input from the user identifying the work area associated with a particular task;

a second interface arranged to present potential hazards from the hazard data to the user, each potential hazard being associated with the work area identified by the user as associated with the particular task, and to receive input from the user identifying
20 which potential hazards are associated with the particular task; and

a reporter arranged to present to the user each hazard identified by the user for the task, and to present with each identified hazard the safety data associated with said hazard from the database.

9. A user computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the safety requirement
25 data received includes personal protective equipment data, safe working requirements data, equipment and permit data, each of which are associated with the hazard data.

10. A user computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the communicator also receives risk-rating data from the database, the risk rating data being associated with the hazard data and the reporter being arranged also to present to the user the risk rating
30 associated with the hazard with each identified hazard.

11. A user computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the hazard data received is arranged hierarchically to form hazard category data and hazard descriptor data, each hazard descriptor being associated with a hazard category, wherein said second interface is arranged to present to the user each hazard category associated with the work area
5 identified by the user as associated with the particular task, and, if the user indicates a hazard category as applicable for the particular task, to also present each hazard descriptor associated with that hazard category to the user, along with the safety requirement data.

12. A user computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the communicator also
10 receives work type data, the work type data being associated with the work area data.

13. A user computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first interface and the second interface are combined.

14. A server computer for use in a computer system for assessing hazards, the user computer comprising:
15 at least one database, each database storing hazard data, safety requirement data and work area data, the safety requirement data being associated with the hazard data and the hazard data being associated with the work area data;

a communicator for transmitting work area data and hazard data to an interface of a user computer and receiving data from the interface identifying the potential hazards
20 associated with a particular task; and

a reporter arranged to generate a report on each hazard identified by the user for the task, and to present with each identified hazard the safety data associated with said hazard from the database, the report being provided to a user of the user computer.

15. A server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the safety requirement
25 data includes personal protective equipment data, safe working requirements data, equipment and permit data, each of which are associated with the hazard data.

16. A server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one database also stores risk rating data, the risk rating data being associated with the hazard data, and wherein the reporter is arranged to present the risk rating associated with the
30 hazard with each identified hazard.

17. A server computer as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a risk assessor arranged to present at least one question to an authorized person regarding a hazard in the hazard data, and to calculate from the authorized person's responses thereto a risk rating for that hazard, and to store the risk rating in the risk rating data associated
5 with the hazard.

18. A server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the hazard data is arranged hierarchically to form hazard category data and hazard descriptor data, each hazard descriptor being associated with a hazard category, wherein said communicator is arranged to transmit hazard category data and hazard descriptor data to the interface.

10 19. A server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one database includes work type data, the work area data being associated with the work type data.

20. A server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
each database is associated with at least one user having permission to access the
15 database;

the communicator is adapted to transmit to the user computer operated by the at least one user, work area data and hazard data stored in the database that the user has permission to access; and

the reporter is adapted to generate the report on each hazard identified by the user
20 for the task using data stored in the database that the user has permission to access, the report being provided to the at least one user of the user computer.